

RESOLUTION IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY IN SCHOOL DISTRICT LEVIES

WHEREAS, everyone is best served by the greatest possible transparency; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin reduces state aid to school districts for students attending independent charter schools, special education programs, and voucher schools; and

WHEREAS, state law requires the MPSD Board of Education to levy for both MPSD operations and for voucher, special education, and independent charter school payments; and

WHEREAS, since the 2022-23 school year, the Wisconsin Legislature has increased the per-pupil payments for vouchers by 34.6% for grades K–8 and 52.5% for grades 9–12, for special education by 26.0%, and for independent charter schools by 38.1%; and

WHEREAS, the increasing costs of voucher, special education, and independent charter school transportation—\$3,824,713 for the 2023-24 school year and \$5,115,909 for the 2024-25 school year, for a total of \$8,940,622—have been absorbed directly by the MPSD operating budget; and

WHEREAS, the MPSD Board of Education strongly advocates for full transparency regarding the use of taxpayer dollars;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Manitowoc Public School District Board of Education requests that the City of Manitowoc and the municipalities within the district's attendance area annually include on their property tax bills the portion of the school district levy attributable to capturing state aid withheld to fund voucher programs, special education, independent charter school payments, and related transportation costs.